

APRIL 25, 2007

The North Providence School Committee met on April 25, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library at the High School. Members present were Chairman Cataldi, Mr. DaSilva, Mrs. Reall, Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Martinelli, and Mr. Iannetta. Also present were Superintendent Ottaviano and Mr. Scungio. Ms. Celona, Mr. Gerardi, Mr. Milazzo and Mr. Lynch were present for the regular session only.

The meeting began by saluting the flag. Next, Chairman Cataldi asked for a moment of silence. He next recognized Dr. Pallotta and Ms. Hines. He added that Mr. Marciano was not present at the meeting because he is recovering from some minor surgery. He wished him well.

The first item on the Agenda was Correspondence. There being none, the next item on the Agenda was Superintendent's Report. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Vendor Policy as submitted in the School Committee Packets.

Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to approve the Vendor Policy as submitted.

Next was Field Trip Requests.

Mr. Gerardi read the Field Trip Requests and recommended approval

in accordance with School Committee policy.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and Mr. Wilkes and carried to approve the Field Trip Requests as presented.

Next as Grievance 01-07. Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to uphold the Superintendent's decision to deny the grievance.

Next was the Monthly Financial Report. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the March 28, 2007 Monthly Financial Report as presented.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to approve the March 28, 2007 Monthly Financial Report as submitted.

Next was School Committee Reports. Chairman Cataldi spoke about honoring one of our teachers, Matthew Moniz. Mr. Moniz received the Teacher of Excellence Award given by the International Technology Education Association. Mr. Moniz was unable to attend the meeting but his Principal, Patricia Hines, has agreed to accept the award on his behalf. Chairman Cataldi offered congratulations on behalf of the Committee and Administration. He also added that Ricci School also received an award for program excellence.

Next was the Kindergarten Committee Report. Chairman Cataldi

thanked Dr. Pallotta and his Committee for taking on the task of looking into this issue. Dr. Pallotta spoke about the extensive report that Superintendent Ottaviano prepared for the members of the Committee regarding this issue. He spoke about the current and projected registrations. Because the budget for FY07-08 has already been determined, it would not be feasible to ask for a full day kindergarten be put in place this year. The principals of each school were asked for information relative to their schools. Based on all the information, the Committee concluded that a recommendation to consider implementing two full-day kindergarten classrooms for the 2008/2009 fiscal year. The Committee has all the necessary information on this issue and will have 1 ½ years to think about the program. The suggested means of determining enrollment in the program would be by lottery. There would be one classroom at each end of the Town. He added that the merits of a full day kindergarten are not an issue. Everyone agrees that the program would benefit the children. Mr. DaSilva asked if the Committee looked at alternative sites for the program. Mr. Floriani spoke about the feasibility of an early childhood learning center. Mr. DaSilva asked if anyone spoke with Tri-Town about helping to defray the cost of the program. Dr. Pallotta stated that we are constrained by the Union contract. Mrs. Reall added that we would also have to address the bussing issue. Chairman Cataldi added that it is a shame that in 2007 we are constrained by funding. The problem is that education is not being funded properly. Mr. Floriani thanked the members of the Committee for forming a Committee. He added that there are two Bills in the

General Assembly. He asked that the Committee send a letter to our legislators and to the RIPAC Committee. Chairman Cataldi spoke about the concern that the federal government passes laws that are unfunded and the State moves it along. Then they all look like heroes and it is passed onto the Towns – unfunded.

Next was Public Comments on Agenda Items 3 – 5. There being none, the next item on the Agenda was Requests to Address the Committee. There being none, the next item on the Agenda was New Business.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the bid for Athletic Department Equipment and Supplies be awarded to the most responsive and responsible bidder as outlined in the School Committee packets.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to award the bid for Athletic Department Equipment and Supplies to the most responsive and responsible bidder as outlined in the School Committee packets.

Next was Resignations. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the resignations be approved, which were voted on as follows:

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and Mr. Iannetta and carried to approve the Resignation Requests by Mary Sheridan –

Science Olympiad Advisor – Ricci Middle School Effective at the end of the 2006-2007 School Year; Michael Coletti – Boys’ Football Coach – NP High School Effective April 26, 2007; and Michael Coletti – Physical Education Department Chair – NP High School Effective at the end of the 2006-2007 School Year.

Next was Retirements. Superintendent Ottaviano read the Retirement Requests, which were voted on as follows:

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by the entire Committee and carried to grant the Retirement Request by Michael Coletti – Physical Education/Health Teacher effective at the end of the 2006-2007 School Year;

Motion by Mr. Wilkes, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and carried to grant the Retirement Request by Patricia Hines – Middle School Principal effective at the end of the 2006-2007 School Year;

Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and carried to grant the Retirement Request by Jennifer LaFlamme – Middle School English Teacher effective at the end of the 2006-2007 School Year; and

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and Mr. Iannetta and carried to grant with regret the Retirement Request by Mary Sheridan – Middle School Guidance Counselor effective at the end of the

2006-2007 School Year.

Mr. Wilkes personally thanked Mrs. Hines for making his life as a School Committeeman easier. He added that he never received a single call regarding Mrs. Hines. He thanked her for a job well done. Mrs. Reall echoed Mr. Wilkes' sentiments. Mrs. Hines started at the beginning and has done a wonderful job. She added that it has been a real pleasure working with Mrs.

Hines. Chairman Cataldi added that Mrs. Hines has done a tremendous job as a role model. He wished Mrs. Hines the best on behalf of the Committee.

Mr. DaSilva thanked Mary Sheridan for her years of dedicated service and added that she will not be easily replaced.

Next was Leaves of Absence Requests. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Leave of Absence Requests by Lauren Bianchi for Unpaid Leave effective January 2, 2007 through the end of the 2006/2007 School Year; Lauren Bianchi for Unpaid Leave effective for the 2007/2008 School Year; Nicole DiFilippo for Unpaid Leave effective for the 2007/2008 School Year; Sara Hurley for Unpaid Leave effective for the 2007/2008 School Year; and Robert LaMothe for a One Year Unpaid Leave – Girls' Cross Country Coach effective for the 2007 Fall Season.

Motion by Mr. Martinell to hold off on voting on the Request by Mr.

**LaMothe until his questions regarding this position are resolved.
Hearing no second to the motion,**

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and Mrs. Reall and carried to grant the Leave of Absence Requests as submitted.

Mr. Martinelli asked if the Cross Country Coach had a guaranteed leave of absence through the contract.

Next was Appointments. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee grant advice and consent to the appointment as submitted in the School Committee Packet.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to table the vote for this appointment.

Next was Old Business. There being none, the next Item on the Agenda was Use of Property Requests. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Use of Property Requests not previously submitted and subject to availability and meeting the necessary requirements.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and Mr. Iannetta and carried to approve the Use of Property Requests as presented by Superintendent Ottaviano.

Mr. DaSilva pointed out that the Request by NPHS Sr. Project Advisors Meeting for use of the Library on May 23, 2007 needs to be moved to another room due to the fact that the School Committee meeting conflicts with the use of the Library.

Next was Approval of Bills. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the April 25, 2007 List of Bills be approved as presented and paid.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried that the April 25, 2007 List of Bills in the amount of \$1,050,016.06 be approved as presented and paid.

Next was Approval of Minutes.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to approve the Minutes of the March 28, 2007 Executive Session and keep them closed in accordance with R.I.G.L. 42-46-4 and 42-46-5.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried that the Minutes of the March 28, 2007 North Providence School Committee Regular Session be approved as presented.

Next was Public Comments on Agenda Items 7-12. There being none, next was Pending Business. There being none, the next Item on the Agenda was Adjournment.

There being no further business,

**Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and carried to adjourn
the meeting at 7:25 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

David Wilkes